Terrorist attack on Amarnath devotees

†214. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether terrorists attacked the Amarnath devotees in Jammu and Kashmir in the month of June, 2006 as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government have undertaken any measures for the safety of devotees and tourists in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, in a single incident on June 21, 2006 at Behama Ganderbal, Srinagar, unidentified terrorists lobbed a grenade at a bus carrying Amarnath pilgrims in which 5 pilgrims sustained injuries.

(c) and (d) As per the report of the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, various steps have been taken for the security of Amarnath pilgrims, which include the following:—

(i) Security Forces deployed on constant alert and Road Opening Parties (ROPs) already deployed further strengthened;

(ii) Intensive patrolling of routes leading to Holy Cave being carried out with surprise checking of vehicles;

(iii) Special nakas established en-route and thorough checking/frisking being carried out;

(iv) Doorframe metal detectors and X-ray machines/gadgets installed at Holy Cave, Sheshnag, Chandanwari, Ashmuquam and Base Camp.

(v) Emphasis laid on various security/Intelligence agencies to generate actionable intelligence to thwart the evil designs of terrorists and ensure security and safety of yatries.

In addition to the above mentioned steps, additional Central Paramilitary Forces and dog squads have been provided to the State Government for the security arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra 2006.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Central Government is constantly monitoring and periodically reviewing the security arrangements made for the Amarnath Yatra. Union Home Secretary has reviewed the security arrangements for Amarnath Yatra 2006 on April 28, 2006 at Delhi and June 16, 2006 at Srinagar with the State Government officials and security agencies. Special Secretary (Internal Security) has visited the Yatri camps on June 9, 2006 and reviewed the security arrangements made at these sites followed by a review meeting on June 10, 2006.

The State Government and Security Forces, in an endeavour to make the security environment progressively safer for tourists, have taken the following steps:

(i) A separate tourist police and enforcement wing at Srinagar/Jammu and other tourist places exists, which looks after and protects the interests of the tourists in the State. The tourists police are empowered to take cognizance in cases of cheating and harassment.

(ii) Adequate deployment of Security Forces/State Police is being ensured around tourists spots and also roads leading to such places.

(iii) Regular patrolling and anti-sabotage checks are being undertaken in and around tourist places and roads leading there.

(iv) A separate security arrangement operational on a permanent basis exists at the Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi at Katra and its proximity.

Union Government provides necessary support to the Government on request and continuously monitors the security situation.

Terrorist attacks in J & K

†215. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir from 22nd May, 2004 to 12th June, 2006;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.